



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 16, 1998

H.R. 3565 **Care for Police Survivors Act of 1998**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on April 1, 1998

CBO estimates that enacting this legislation would result in additional costs to the federal government of about \$1 million annually, beginning in fiscal year 1998. Because the bill would increase direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. H.R. 3565 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 and would have no impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

Current law provides an indefinite mandatory appropriation for the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to pay death benefits to the families of public safety officers killed in the line of duty. These funds also can be used to spend up to \$150,000 each year to support and counsel the families of slain officers. H.R. 3565 would authorize BJA to spend no less than \$150,000 annually for support and counseling. In addition, the bill would apparently permit BJA to use funds provided in the mandatory appropriation to administer appeals of claims for benefits. Currently, these costs are paid from funds provided through discretionary appropriations.

According to BJA, removing the \$150,000 cap would increase expenditures by about \$850,000 each year, to be spent from the indefinite authority for mandatory appropriations. CBO expects that BJA would spend the annual total of about \$1 million near the end of each fiscal year—just as it currently spends the capped funds—in grants to organizations that provide counseling and related services. Costs relating to appeals—about \$75,000 annually—also would be paid out of the mandatory account, with a matching reduction in discretionary spending. Thus, enacting H.R. 3565 would increase direct spending by nearly \$1 million annually.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz, who can be reached at 226-2860. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.